

Year 2

God is Truth 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The importance of honesty in what we say
- Just as God keeps his promises to us, he expects us to keep promises to other people.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Light and colour; making promises and keeping our word

Link between “God is Truth” and classroom topics:

The key story for this unit is the promise given by God to Noah that He would never flood the whole world again. The sign of His promise was the rainbow. The rainbow is a sign of God’s promise to us, that God keeps His word. He keeps His word because He is truth. God wants us to be faithful and true to our word as well.

Values:

honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice; integrity

God is Truth

Week 1

Be true to your word.

God is faithful and true to His word. He wants us to keep every promise that we make.

Bible references

Matthew 21:28-32 The parable of two sons in the vineyard

Psalm 119:86 All God's commandments are faithful.

Proverbs 30:5 God keeps every promise He makes. (GNB)

Definition

What is a promise?

A promise is doing the thing that you say you will do.

A promise is keeping your word.

Discussion

People make promises every day. What are some of them?

What promises do parents make to children?

What promises do children make to parents?

What promises do we make to our friends?

How do you feel when someone breaks a promise?

Would you trust that person again?

People often break promises, but God doesn't. That is why we can always trust Him. If God says something in His word, then we can believe it. The Bible says that God is faithful. This means that He keeps all His promises. We can depend on Him.

God wants us to be faithful too.

What does it mean when someone says, 'I can depend on you'?

Think about friends...

How can you be a faithful friend?

(Sharing, praying, playing, helping, showing kindness)

What promises might you make to your friend? (e.g. "I will come to your birthday party.")

How would your friend feel if you didn't keep your promise?

Bible Lesson: A father asks his two sons for help

Jesus told this story to teach us about keeping our word. When we say something, then we should do what we say. If we don't, it is being dishonest.

Here is the story that Jesus told.

Once there was a man who owned a vineyard. The man had two sons. In Israel, the land of the Bible, grapes grew very well, and many people grew grapes. A grape farm is called a vineyard.

Our story begins in the busiest time of the year for the farmers. It was the season to pick the grapes and there was much work to be done. The farmer in our story was extremely busy. He had too much work to do. There were so many grapes to pick.

“I will ask my two sons to help,” he thought to himself.

So he went off to look for his sons. First, he found the older son.

“Son,” he said “Would you please help me to pick the grapes? I have so much work to do.”

The older son thought about this for a moment.

“No, I’m sorry Dad,” said the older son. “I can’t help to pick the grapes today.”

The father went away to find his younger son to see if he could help.

Jesus didn’t tell us why the older son said he could not help. Maybe he had too much of his own work to do. Maybe he just didn’t want to help.

The older son started thinking. Perhaps he felt sorry that he had said ‘no’. He decided that he would go to the vineyard after all and help.

Meanwhile the father was looking for his younger son. He saw him and went up to him.

“Son, would you please help me to pick the grapes?” he asked. “I have so much work to do.”

“Yes,” said the son. “I will go and help pick the grapes.”

“Thank you,” said the father. “I am very happy that you can help me.”

After about a while the father went to the vineyard to see how his workers were going.

He expected to see his younger son working in the vineyard. He was the son who had said ‘yes’ to helping him with the work.

But what a surprise! The younger son was not there. But the older son was there!

The father was happy that the older son had been able to help after all, but sad that the younger son had not kept his word.

“At least the younger son could have told me if he had something important to do,” he thought.

When Jesus had finished telling the story he asked his disciples, “Which son did what the father wanted?”

The disciples answered, “The first son.”

“That’s right,” said Jesus. “The one who said ‘no’ but later changed his mind and actually went to help.

Discussion

Jesus wanted to show the disciples that the father in the story is like God our father. When God calls us to work for him, we could say 'yes' or 'no'. If we say 'yes' to Jesus, then he expects us to do as we say. Jesus wants us to stay with him and never leave him.

How would Jesus feel if someone said to him, 'yes, I will follow you', but then decided not to? What if someone said 'no' to Jesus the first time they heard about him? Would Jesus let them follow him later on if they changed their mind and said 'yes'?

God also wants us to keep our word when we make promises to other people. If we say 'yes' then we should do it. If we really can't for some good reason, then we should apologize to the person we said 'yes' to, explaining that we can no longer do whatever we said we could do. This is being honest.

Activity: Make a promise box

Decorate the outside of the box. Promises can be prepared on strips of paper and placed in the box.

Close your eyes and select a promise from the box. You can choose a new promise every day of the week, or ask someone else to choose one.

Examples of promises:

- God loved us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus. (John 3:16)
- If we tell God that we have done wrong things, He will forgive us. (1 John 1:9)
- Ask God, and you will receive. (Luke 11:9)
- God will protect you. He puts angels in charge of you. (Psalm 91:11)
- God loves us so much that He calls us his children. (1 John 3:1)
- Jesus is coming back. (Acts 1:10)
- The Lord is my shepherd. (Psalm 23:1)

Exercise:

Make a promise to your Mum or Dad today. Keep the promise for a whole week.



God is Truth

Week 2

God is true to His word

God promised the world a Saviour from long ago, and he kept that promise.

Bible references

Genesis 9:8-17 The rainbow: a sign of a promise.

John 3:16 God loved us so much that He sent His Son.

Psalm 33:4 God is faithful.

Revision

What is a promise?

A promise is doing the thing that you say you will do.

A promise is keeping your word.

Bible Lesson: Noah and the Great Flood

God looked at the world that He had made. People did bad things. It made Him sad.

"I will send lots of rain," He said.

God looked for a good man. There was Noah.

God said to Noah, "Make a big, big boat. I am going to send lots of rain."

"How big?" asked Noah.

God said, "Make it very big. It will be for your family, and two of every kind of animal."

Noah made the boat. It took him a long time. People laughed. "Why are you making a boat?" they laughed. "There will be no flood!"

Noah finished the boat. His family got in. Then God sent two of every kind of animal...
2 dinosaurs... 2 lions... 2 tigers...2 giraffes...2 elephants...2 zebras..... 2 cows...2 dogs....2 cats...

And lots and lots more. God shut the door of the big boat. It began to rain. It rained for forty days and forty nights.

There was a big flood. The bad people were drowned, but Noah and his family and the animals were safe.

They stayed in the boat for one year. Then they all got out on to dry land.

God said, "I will never send such a big flood again. This is my promise. I will send a rainbow."

God did send a rainbow. Noah and his family said thank you to God.

Discussion

The rainbow was a sign of God's promise to all people. He would never destroy the world again with a flood, but instead would provide a way for people to be forgiven. God's people, the people of Israel, waited and waited for the promised One who would be able to forgive their sins. Do you know who they were waiting for?

Finally the day came when the promised One was born. His name was Jesus. He was called the Saviour because He would be able to forgive people for the wrong things they did. Now, anyone who wants to do so can make Jesus their Saviour. All we have to do is ask Him.

God has given us two promise signs. The Old Testament promise sign is that of the rainbow. When we see the rainbow we remember that Jesus will come. The New Testament promise sign is the cross, which promises forgiveness to everyone who asks for it.

Art/Craft

Outline a rainbow in pencil. Using permanent marker or oil pastel, write inside the rainbow, 'God keeps all His promises'. Paint with water colours.



God is Truth

Week 3

God keeps all His promises.

God is faithful to His word

Bible references

Genesis 15,17,18 God kept His promise to Abraham.

Numbers 23:19 God doesn't lie.

Discussion

Discuss the meaning of 'trust'.

Which people do we trust?

Why do we trust them?

Can we trust God? Why?

Trusting someone is having faith in that person. We can have faith in God because He always does what He says he will do.

Bible Lesson: God's promise to Abraham

God spoke to Abraham.

"Abraham," He said, I will bless Sarah.

I will send her a baby. I will send her a baby boy."

Abraham laughed. Sarah laughed.

"But Lord," they said, "we are too old!"

"I can do all things," said the Lord. "I will send you a baby boy."

The next year Sarah had a baby boy. Abraham and Sarah were so happy.

"We will call him Isaac", they said.

Abraham had faith in God's word. God gave him a promise. The promise was that he and his wife would have a son even though they were too old to have children. Now that was a hard thing to believe. At first his wife Sarah did not believe it, but Abraham trusted God to make the promise happen, and it did.

Discussion

What is faith?

Faith is depending on God to do what he says He will do. Faith is trusting in God.

Abraham needed faith to believe that God would keep his promise. He needed faith because:

- He and his wife were too old to have children.
- They had already waited a long time for a baby.

The son that was born to Abraham was very special, because many, many years later, Jesus was born into Abraham's family.

Story: The Little Bird

Far away in a country in the north, a mother bird sat on her nest. It was springtime. Soon the eggs would hatch.

As the days grew warmer, the eggs cracked open and four baby swallows dried their bodies in the sunshine. As mother bird provided food each day the baby birds became bigger and stronger.



Spring passed and summer arrived. It was time for mother bird to teach the little ones how to fly. By the end of the summer the birds were flying confidently. They loved their home in the north. The sun shone, the grass was green, the flowers bloomed and there was always plenty to eat.

Then autumn came. The young birds saw the leaves on the trees change to beautiful shades of red, gold and brown. Soon the leaves started to fall, turning the ground beneath them into a beautiful carpet of colours. Towards the end of the autumn mother bird called her young ones together to announce some news. She told them that very soon they would be leaving their home in the north. They would be making a long, long journey, with their aunts and uncles and cousins, to a new place in the south, for soon the winter would come. Snow would cover the ground and the icy winds would blow. They must fly to a new place where the air was warm and the sun shone and the grass was green. Soon the birds, along with their aunts and uncles and cousins, set off on their journey. The four young birds flew close to their mother. It would be a long and difficult flight for such young birds.

One little bird started feeling tired. He started to think about his beautiful home in the north. "Surely winter cannot be so bad," he thought. "I do not believe that the new place in the south could possibly be as good as my lovely home in the north." So the little bird left the other birds and flew off in the opposite direction. He had made up his mind to go back.

By the time he reached his old home the snow had already started to fall. He was sorry he hadn't trusted the words of his mother. He went to his old nest in the oak tree. The little nest was filled with snow. "I can't stay here," he thought. The little bird went to visit the squirrels that lived in the hollow of the tree. He spent the winter with the squirrels that kindly looked after him. All winter long he thought about his family. What a happy time they would be having in their beautiful new home in the south. Now he wished he had believed the words of his mother.

Discussion

This story is only make-believe, but it does show us how important it is to believe in the things that are true. Because the little bird had never seen the home in the south, it was difficult for him to believe in it. Some people won't believe in God because they can't see Him. However

we can see the things He does. We can see the way that He protects and heals and helps people. We can feel His love. Because of this we can believe that His word is true. We can believe in God's word even though we can't actually see God.